

Message Text

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ACTION MCT-01

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJ: REPORT ON NICARAGUAN KIDNAP CASE

REF: LISBON 6361

1. FOLLOWING ARTICLE APPEARED ON PAGE 9 OF AUGUST 16
"A CAPITAL" NEWSPAPER OF LISBON:

2. HEADLINE: "FROM THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR OF THE ESTORIL-SOL
HOTEL TO THIN AIR: MYSTERY OF NICARAGUAN ARCHITECT DEEPENS."

3. ARTICLE TEXT:
"IT IS QUITE TRUE THAT THE ARCHITECT WHICH THE NEWSPAPERS
SAY WAS KIDNAPPED WAS HERE FOR SEVERAL DAYS, BUT FOR REASONS
OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS, WHICH PROHIBIT US FROM GETTING
INVOLVED IN THE LIVES OF OUR CLIENTS, THERE IS LITTLE ELSE
WE CAN SAY." THIS STATE WAS MADE TO "A CAPITAL" BY
ABEL CABRAL, DIRECTOR OF THE ESTORIL-SOL HOTEL, REGARDING
THE MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE OF NICARAGUAN CITIZEN JOSE
ANTONIO BAEZ WHOM HIS MOTHER, ANA MARIA VILES BAEZ,
CONTENDS WAS KIDNAPPED IN PORTUGAL.
THE ESTORIL-SOL DIRECTOR ADDED, NEVERTHELESS, THAT THE
MISSING PERSON ENTERED THAT HOTEL ON JULY 3 AND HIS
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PRESENCE WAS MISSED SOME DAYS LATER, WHEN THE HOTEL
STAFF VERIFIED THAT THE ROOM HE WAS OCCUPYING ON THE
THIRTEENTH FLOOR OF THE HOTEL HAD CEASED TO BE USED.
ABEL CABRAL CONFIRMED THAT THE MISSING PERSON LEFT
BEHIND MORE THAN ENOUGH TO PAY FOR HIS EXPENSES IN THE
HOTEL, THUS PUTTING ASIDE ANY POSSIBILITY THAT HE LEFT
THAT ESTABLISHMENT SECRETLY TO AVOID PAYING THE BILL.

THIS LATTER APPROACH IS QUITE COMMON IN HOTELS, SO MUCH SO THAT HOTELS ONLY NOTIFY THE AUTHORITIES WHEN THEY HAVE EXHAUSTED THEIR OWN POSSIBILITIES OF COVERING EXPENSES MADE.

JOSE ANTONIO BAEZ WAS BORN IN 1943, THUS NOW BEING AGE 34 - AND NOT 28 AS HAS BEEN PUBLISHED. WE KNOW ALSO THAT HE IS A BACHELOR AND ARRIVED AT THE ESTORIL-SOL ALONE AND WITHOUT A RESERVATION.

ABEL CABRAL BELIEVES THAT THE NICARAGUAN ARCHITECT WOULD NOT BY CHOICE HAVE LEFT BEHIND THE EFFECTS OF SUCH VALUE -- WHICH HE REFUSED TO DESCRIBE IN ORDER NOT TO VIOLATE THE DISCREET APPROACH WHICH CLIENTS EXPECT OF THEIR HOTEL. SUB-HEAD: THERE WAS SOME KIND OF UNUSUAL HAPPENING THERE WAS, THUS, SOME EVENT OR ACCIDENT WHICH PREVENTED THE ARCHITECT FROM RETURNING TO THE HOTEL. HIS MOTHER WROTE HER COUNTRY'S EMBASSY IN MADRID, SAYING THAT HER SON WAS KIDNAPPED AND THAT THE KIDNAPERS DEMANDED A RANSOM OF 500,000 DOLLARS (NEARLY 2,000 CONTOS). AT THE ESTORIL-SOL, FROM THE DIRECTOR WHO KINDLY DECLINED TO GIVE "ALL THE INFORMATION HE COULD GIVE" TO THE DOORMAN WHO KNEW NOTHING OF THE MATTER, WE LEARNED NOTHING ABOUT THE POLICE INVESTIGATION BEING HANDLED BY THE JUDICIAL POLICE WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF INTEROPL AND POLICE OF OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. SOME FORTY DAYS AFTER THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE ARCHITECT THE MYSTERY DEEPENS AND LEADS US TO BELIEVE THAT THE MOTHER OF THE DISAPPEARED PERSON HAD WELL-FOUNDED UNCLASSIFIED

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REASONS TO ASK FOR THE ASSISTANCE OF THE NICARAGUAN EMBASSY IN MADRID, IN DEFENSE OF HER SON, BECAUSE AS SHE SAID, THE FAMILY HAS NO MEANS OF MEETING THE KIDNAPERS' DEMANDS.

ACCORDING TO INFORMATION OBTAINED IN MADRID, A COLLEAGUE OF BAEZ, WHO LIVES IN THAT CITY, RECEIVED A LETTER WITH A PHOTO OF HIS FRIEND AFTER HE ESTABLISHED CONTACT WITH THE KIDNAPERS. THE LETTER, DATED JULY 4, WAS RECEIVED IN MADRID POSTMARKED JULY 9. RUBI NOW SAYS THAT HE STOPPED HIS CONTACTS WITH THE KIDNAPERS ABOUT A WEEK AGO BECAUSE HE BELIEVED THE DEMANDS THEY WERE MAKING ON THE FAMILY WERE SO EXCESSIVE. ACCORDING TO HIS STATEMENTS TO AN AMERICAN NEWS AGENCY, THE BAEZ FAMILY IS NOT RICH AND THE ARCHITECT HAS NO LINK AT ALL WITH THE NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT. THE KIDNAPPING MUST BE A MISTAKE. JOSE ANTONIO BAEZ WAS IN PORTUGAL AS A STOPOVER IN A TRIP THROUGH EUROPE, WHICH HE MANAGED TO MAKE BY SAVING HIS MONEY.

SUB-HEAD: POLICE CONFIRM

MEANWHILE, THE JUDICIAL POLICE WHICH, ACCORDING TO A RELIABLE SOURCE, HAD ITS BOMB SQUAD ON THIS CASE, TODAY -- AFTER AT FIRST REFUSING TO MAKE ANY STATEMENTS - RELEASED

THE FOLLOWING COMMUNIQUE:

"THE JUDICIAL POLICE HAS BEEN WORKING ON THE CASE FOR SEVERAL DAYS, BUT HAS MAINTAINED THE MAXIMUM OF SILENCE TO AVOID RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS MATTER, WHICH IS OF GREAT SENSITIVITY.

"AT THE MOMENT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SUPPLY ANY DETAILS, BUT WE HOPE TO MAKE THEM AVAILABLE AS SOON AS THIS WILL NOT BE PREJUDICIAL TO THE INTERESTS AT PLAY.

"THE JUDICIAL POLICE IS WORKING IN COLLABORATION WITH THE AUTHORITIES OF OTHER COUNTRIES, SPECIFICALLY THOSE OF ITALY AND SPAIN." (END TEXT)

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